

Fund for obligation in future fiscal years, without fiscal year limitation." Thus, in both the authorization and the appropriations processes, Congress has clearly and emphatically stated its intent to maintain a stable source of federal support for essential victim services.

Over the past 4 years, the Bush administration and this Republican Congress have squandered record surpluses and racked up \$7.6 trillion in Federal debt as a result of reckless spending and budget-busting tax cuts. Now the Bush administration proposes to reduce the deficit by siphoning off resources that we set aside to assist victims of crime. In this regard, it bears emphasis that the Crime Victims Fund does not receive appropriated funding; deposits come from Federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments, not from the pockets of American taxpayers.

Together with Senators BIDEN and SCHUMER, I wrote to President Bush on March 11, 2005, to urge him to reconsider and withdraw his proposal to rescind the Crime Victims Fund. We received no response to that letter.

On March 17, 2005, I offered and the Senate approved by voice vote a budget resolution amendment intended to head off the administration's plans to raid the Crime Victims Fund. I was joined by Senators KENNEDY, MIKULSKI, FEINGOLD, BIDEN, DURBIN, OBAMA and DODD, and I thank them again for their support. As amended, the budget resolution passed by the Senate rejects the proposed rescission by assuming that all amounts that have been and will be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, including all amounts to be deposited in fiscal year 2006 and thereafter, will remain in the fund for use as authorized by the Victims of Crime Act.

In every State and every community across the country, the Crime Victims Fund plays an essential role in helping crime victims and their families meet critical expenses, recover from the horrific crimes they endured, and move forward with their lives. I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD a letter from a number of victims' organizations, representing the millions of Americans who become victims of crime every year. They wrote that rescinding the Crime Victims Fund at the end of fiscal year 2006 would create a "disastrous" situation for victim service providers and their clients.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM  
ORGANIZATIONS CONTACT GROUPS,  
Washington, DC, March 12, 2005.

Hon. DANIEL K. AKAKA,  
Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR AKAKA: We, the undersigned members of the National Crime Victim Organizations Contact Group, represent the millions of citizens that become victims of crime every year in our nation and the agencies that provide supportive services to them. The Crime Victims Fund provides cru-

cial support to thousands of nonprofit organizations and public agencies who help millions of crime victims. We have joined together to urge all members of Congress to oppose the Administration's proposal to remove \$1.2 billion from this essential and life-saving fund.

The Fund was created under the Victims of Crime Act in 1984 as a "separate account" meaning that the revenues in the Fund are intended to be used solely for financial support of victim services, primarily through State crime victim compensation and State victim assistance formula grants. The Fund comes from the collection of Federal criminal fines, forfeitures and assessments; it does not depend on general taxpayer appropriations. Since the Fund's inception, Congress directed that all amounts deposited into the Fund would remain available to support victim services "without fiscal year limitation."

Over 4,400 victim service agencies in every state and every district depend upon VOCA funding for essential victim services, such as emergency shelters, counseling, legal advocacy, and assistance participating in the criminal justice system. In FY 2003, 3.8 million crime victims received VOCA-funded assistance, including victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, survivors of homicide victims and drunk driving crashes. Hundreds of thousands of victims were provided financial assistance through VOCA grants to State crime victim compensation programs.

Initially, the money collected every year was released to states the following year. When collections grew to nearly \$1 billion in FY 1999, Congress placed a cap on the amount that was distributed each year. Congress began limiting annual Fund obligations expressly "to ensure that a stable level of funding will remain available for these programs in future years" (Conference Report 106-479).

Capping annual Fund obligations created a Fund balance—a "rainy day" fund consisting of amounts that otherwise would have been used by States to support immediate victim assistance needs. The Fund balance was used to make up the difference between annual deposits and Congressional caps three times over the past six years.

Having recently recognized the 20th anniversary of this successful and effective program, we were shocked to learn that the Administration now proposes rescinding the entire Fund at the end of FY 2006, including the amounts that Congress promised and, in fact, needed to protect against Fund fluctuations and to ensure the Fund's stability as well as deposits made during FY 2006. More stable long-term sources of funding are already required to maintain a sufficient amount in the Fund. Rescinding the Fund will zero out the Fund going into FY 2007 and unquestionably create a disastrous situation for victim service providers and their clients. The entire crime victims' field stands united in its opposition to the proposed rescission.

We ask Congress to reject the Administration's recommendation to rescind the Fund and to work with us to guarantee the Fund's future viability and support for victim services.

Sincerely,

David Beatty, Contact Group Coordinator,  
Justice Solutions, NPO.

Jeanette Adkins, National Organization  
for Victim Assistance.

Marybeth Carter, National Alliance to End  
Sexual Violence.

Nancy Chandler, National Children's Alliance.

Steve Derene, National Association of  
VOCA Assistance Administrators.

Dan Eddy, National Association of Crime  
Victim Compensation Boards.

Wendy Hamilton, Mothers Against Drunk  
Driving.

Mary Lou Leary, National Center for Vic-  
tims of Crime.

Dan Levey, National Organization for Par-  
ents of Murdered Children.

Jill Morris, National Coalition Against Do-  
mestic Violence.

Diane Moyer, Pennsylvania Coalition  
Against Rape.

Lynn Rosenthal, National Network to End  
Domestic Violence.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, National  
Crime Victims' Rights Week is upon  
us. I urge my colleagues to honor our  
longstanding commitment to crime  
victims by working together to pre-  
serve the Crime Victims Fund.

## FREEDOM PARK

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I bring  
to the Senate's attention the impor-  
tance of Freedom Park in Edwards, CO,  
to commemorate the sacrifices of our  
Armed Forces and emergency services  
personnel.

Similar to many other memorials, an  
American flag stands waving at its center,  
reflecting in the clear blue waters  
of a mountain lake. Yet this monu-  
ment differs from most in that it recog-  
nizes not only our Armed Forces but  
our emergency services. The liberties  
that we as citizens hold dear today  
have been protected both abroad and  
domestically, and this monument is a  
faithful reminder of all Americans who  
have dedicated their lives to serving  
freedom.

The concept of Freedom Park began  
with local veterans in Edwards, CO, but  
soon grew into a valley-wide, grass-  
roots effort. Citizens from all walks of  
life have come together to accomplish  
this noble goal, including military veter-  
ans and their families, emergency  
service members, business profes-  
sionals, local government officials, and  
countless others. The fruit of their  
labor will be recognized for generations  
to come in the name of commemo-  
rating American liberty.

From the Revolutionary War to the  
global war on terrorism, Freedom Park  
uniquely honors those who have given  
their lives in the line of duty through-  
out America's history. Clearly dis-  
played at every entrance to the park,  
these words are posted: "The greatest  
tribute we can give them is to become  
wiser through their legacy." This  
quote demonstrates the founders' goal,  
which is two-fold: to memorialize those  
who have served in the name of free-  
dom and to teach future generations  
the meaning of the sacrifices that were  
made.

Freedom Park memorial appropri-  
ately holds the dedication of our  
men and women in the Armed Forces  
and emergency services in great es-  
teem so that we may honor their dedi-  
cation to our Nation and learn from  
their sacrifices.